

CITATION

MARTNAHAM LOCH AND WOOD SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST South Ayrshire & East Ayrshire

Site code: 1130

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NS 393173

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 70
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 326

AREA: 59.74 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Freshwater habitats: Mesotrophic loch
Biological: Woodlands: Upland oak woodland

DESCRIPTION

Martnaham Loch and Wood, lying approximately five kilometres south-west of Ayr, comprises one of the most botanically diverse lochs in Ayrshire and one of the largest remaining oak woods in lowland Ayrshire.

The loch has extensive emergent reed-swamp dominated by common reed *Phragmites australis* but also including common club-rush *Schoenoplectus lacustris*, bulrush *Typha latifolia*, branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* and water-plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*. There are, in addition, small areas of *Sphagnum* lawn, poor-fen, willow and alder carr and water lilies *Nuphar lutea* and *Nymphaea alba*. Amongst the more notable plants are nodding bur-marigold *Bidens cernua*, trifold bur-marigold *Bidens tripartita*, greater spearwort *Ranunculus lingua*, and the Nationally Scarce eight-stamened waterwort *Elatine hydropiper*. Another unusual plant, flowering rush *Butomus umbellatus*, is considered to be non-native in Scotland but is naturalised within the site.

Martnaham Wood is an ancient woodland site which is still dominated by oak and birch with abundant hazel in the understorey. The ground cover is of grasses and typical woodland plants such as sanicle *Sanicula europaea*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*. Marshy areas and large amounts of decaying wood add to the general diversity and there is a wide variety of fungi, mosses and liverworts, including the only Scottish record of the mushroom *Mycena picta*, formerly thought extinct in Great Britain.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1975
Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 04 August 1986
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 1 March 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected from 65.5hectares.